

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Charles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON: Rose Hill			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Rose Hill Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Port Tobacco			
STATE: Maryland		CODE 24	COUNTY: Charles
			CODE 017

3. CLASSIFICATION		CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private		<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied					
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress							
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)									
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments					
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious							
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific							

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Colonel and Mrs. Frank B. Wade			
STREET AND NUMBER: Rose Hill, Rose Hill Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Port Tobacco		STATE: Maryland	CODE 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Charles County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Charles Street			
CITY OR TOWN: La Plata		STATE: Maryland	CODE 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland	CODE 24

[see continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rose Hill is located on the west side of Rose Hill Road, north of the intersection of Maryland Route 6. The intersection is approximately two miles west of La Plata, Maryland.

Rose Hill is a five-part, Georgian-style dwelling house. Its two-story central block has side walls of frame, brick nogged and sheathed with modern beaded siding. The gable-ends are of brick, each with a pair of exterior chimneys.

The brickwork throughout is laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers.

The central block is five bays long and, in addition to the regular fenestration, the north facade has narrow sidelights flanking the central entrance. The windows have nine-over-nine sashes on the first story and six-over-six on the second story.

The two brick hyphens are short in length and have pent roofs. Their south walls are nearly flush with the south walls of the main block and wings. The one-story brick wings have single interior chimneys on their end walls. The segmental arches of the hyphens and wings have alternating glazed headers. The present kitchen wing (east) is a restoration; the winter kitchen was located in the cellar of the main block. The west wing was the office of the builder of Rose Hill, Dr. Gustavus Richard Brown.

The south facade of Rose Hill which overlooks Port Tobacco Creek, has the more elaborate detailing. The central doorway on the south is set within an open pedimented pavillion with flush siding. A bulls-eye window is located within the pediment which extends above the cornice line of the main block. A Palladian-style window on the second story is located above the south entrance. The south door is similar to the north door, but is wider and more elaborate. It is enframed with Roman Ionic pilasters and a traceried fanlight.

Early boxwood in formal pattern fills the south lawn which has several terraces, known locally as "falls," which descend in levels toward Port Tobacco Creek.

Rose Hill was in a ruinous condition in 1930, but was restored during the mid-twentieth century ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Ryerson.

The area of <sup>60.2</sup>~~sixty-four~~ acres has been designed to protect Rose Hill which stands on the crest of a ridge, surrounded by a field with a barn nearby. An approach through a wooded area terminates near the house. The front of the house looks south, over lawns and garden; and further overlooks the descending

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

[see continuation sheet]

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

fourth quarter 18th century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion Phi-☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ lasophymedicine☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☒ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ itarian☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rose Hill was the home of Dr. Gustavus Richard Brown (1747-1804) who was a physician and friend of George Washington as well as an avid horticulturist and landscape architect. Dr. Brown was called to Washington's deathbed at Mt. Vernon, Virginia, to act as one of the medical advisors.

Dr. Brown was an outstanding Charles Countian who holds an important place in the history of eighteenth century Maryland. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and returned in 1768 to practice in his native county. With the coming of the American Revolution, his medical practice widened to include soldiers of the Continental Army. Although always involved in medicine--he was an early (1776) advocate of smallpox inoculations and a founder of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland (1799)--his interests extended to other fields as well. He served as a Charles County judge, as a county representative to the Maryland convention that ratified the Constitution, and as a member of the Board of Visitors at St. John's College in Annapolis. His garden at Rose Hill was widely known for its decorative, medicinal, and culinary plants.

After the Revolution, Dr. Brown bought four contiguous tracts near Port Tobacco which he consolidated and had resurveyed in 1784. Sometime after the 1783 tax assessment, he built Rose Hill and laid out its gardens.

Olivia Floyd, a descendant of Dr. Brown, lived at Rose Hill with her brother and sister in the mid-nineteenth century. During the Civil War, her sympathy for the South led her into espionage activities for the Confederacy. Her most famous escapade occurred in 1864 when Union troops searched Rose Hill while she was in possession of a secret message for Jefferson Davis. It concerned the pending extradition of Confederate raiders from Canada, where they had sought refuge, to the United States.

In spite of a thorough search, the soldiers missed the andiron which was Miss Floyd's hiding place for the message. The next day she hid the message in her hair and transported it to a

[see continuation sheet]

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charles County file. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.  
Committee on History, Theme and Memorials, Maryland Civil War Centennial Commission. "Maryland Remembers A Guide to Historic Places and People of the Civil War in Maryland." Hagerstown, Maryland: Maryland Civil War Centennial Commission, 1961.

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: the author, 1934.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

[see continuation sheet]

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	38°	31'	14"	77°	02'	02"	
NE	38°	31'	32"	77°	01'	37"	
SE	38°	30'	20"	77°	00'	46"	
SW	38°	30'	10"	77°	01'	54"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 605.2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William Morgan, and Nancy Miller, Historian		DATE July 24, 1972
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road		
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE Maryland 21401	CODE 24

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date July 24, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Charles	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Rose Hill

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued

Historic American Buildings Survey

1969 federal x

Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

code 11

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

slope of the ridge to Port Tobacco Creek and the site of an ancient, now nearly abandoned, town and port.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Confederate signal station on Popes' Creek. The message was relayed to Richmond in time to save the raiders from a trip to federal prison.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Klapthor, Margaret Brown and Brown, Paul Dennis. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentenary, Incorporated [1958].

Newman, Harry Wright. The Maryland Semmes and Kindred Families. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1956.



CT-1 ~~CH+~~

ROSE HILL

